

Jennifer Ayres

From: BVP Email Account <ojp@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 11:49 AM
To: Jennifer Ayres
Subject: Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) – FY 2020 Application Announcement

Dear BVP Participant:

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is pleased to announce the Fiscal Year 2020 Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) application funding period.

Applications for FY 2020 BVP funds will be accepted beginning April 23, 2020. All applications must be submitted online at <https://ojp.gov/bvpbasi/> by 6:00 pm (e.d.t.), June 8, 2020.

Important Information Regarding FY 2020 BVP Funds:

1. Jurisdictions receiving funding for reimbursement of body armor purchases must have a written mandatory wear policy for uniformed patrol officers in place when the FY 2020 BVP applications are submitted. There are no requirements regarding the nature of the policy other than it specify when mandatory wear is required for uniformed officers on duty. Please see the BVP Mandatory FAQs for further guidance on this requirement:
https://www.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh241/files/media/document/FAQsBVP MandatoryWearPolicy_0.pdf.
2. Each vest purchased with FY 2020 funds must meet the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) standards on the date it was ordered and must be American-made. Please see these websites for the latest NIJ compliant vests: https://www.justnet.org/other/ballistic_cpl.html and https://www.justnet.org/other/stab_cpl.html.
3. Uniquely Fitted Armor Vest Requirement: Jurisdictions receiving funding for reimbursement of body armor purchases must have in place a uniquely fitted vest requirement when the FY 2020 BVP applications are submitted.

In the BVP Program, "uniquely fitted vests" means protective (ballistic or stab-resistant) armor vests that

conform to the individual wearer to provide the best possible fit and coverage, through a combination of: 1) correctly-sized panels and carrier, determined through appropriate measurement, and 2) properly adjusted straps, harnesses, fasteners, flaps, or other adjustable features. The requirement that body armor be "uniquely fitted" does not necessarily require body armor that is individually manufactured based on the measurements of an individual wearer. In support of the Office of Justice Programs' efforts to improve officer safety, the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) International has made available the Standard Practice for Body Armor Wearer Measurement and Fitting of Armor (Active Standard ASTM E3003) available at no cost. The Personal Armor Fit Assessment checklist, is excerpted from ASTM E3003.

4. Multiple law enforcement agencies (LEAs) within the same jurisdiction must submit their own application information and vest needs to the jurisdiction. The jurisdiction will then submit the LEA applications in one submission to BJA. This includes colleges and universities. All public colleges and universities are considered LEAs under their respective jurisdiction.

5. To ensure that program participants are submitting applications that accurately reflect their vest needs for the next two years, please review the program guidance below. Prior to submitting an application for FY 2020 BVP funds:

- a. Verify that the number of vests indicated on the application does not exceed actual agency needs. Review all currently deployed vests for those that will need to be replaced during the next two years, according to the replacement cycle indicated on your BVP system profile. Applications for funds should reflect the number of vests your agency needs to replace within the next two years, and vests for officers your agency anticipates hiring in the next two years. (New hires can be anticipated based on the average number of officers hired over the most recent three years.)
- b. Ensure that the application accurately reflects the current market cost for the vests identified on the application.
- c. Review previous year(s) BVP funding to identify any unspent funds that might currently be available for BVP needs.

Your careful attention to actual vest needs will help ensure that all eligible jurisdictions submitting requests will receive the maximum award allowable based on the appropriation and distribution guidelines.

6. BJA has completed user guides and training materials for the BVP application process and the payment request process. Please see the following website for the guides and checklists: <https://www.ojp.gov/program/bulletproof-vest-partnership/program-resources>

For questions regarding this email or for assistance with the online application process, please do not hesitate to call the BVP Help Desk at 1-877-758-3787, or email vests@usdoj.gov.

Sincerely,

The BVP Program Team

Bureau of Justice Assistance

<https://ojp.gov/bvpbasi/>

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